

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 587

By Harper

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Congresswoman Bella
Abzug of New York City.

WHEREAS, it was with great sadness and a profound sense of loss that the members of this General Assembly and the citizens of our state learned of the death of Congresswoman Bella Abzug; and

WHEREAS, the legacy Ms. Abzug leaves behind will be remembered and treasured by friends and associates for many years to come; and

WHEREAS, Bella Abzug was truly "bigger than life", and a real pioneer in the struggle for women's equality; and

WHEREAS, she made her voice heard and her opinions known in the arena of government, as a three-term member of the U.S. Congress; and

WHEREAS, with her trademark wide-brimmed hat, Bella Abzug was renowned as one of the most influential and dedicated leaders of the women's liberation movement in the 1970s; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Abzug became the first Jewish woman elected to Congress in 1970, representing Manhattan's Upper West Side; and

WHEREAS, born Bella Savitsky in 1920, (the year women received the right to vote), to Russian immigrant parents in the Bronx, Ms. Abzug championed the rights of underdogs most of her productive and inspiring life; and

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WHEREAS, before her activities in the political arena, Congresswoman Abzug was an accomplished labor and civil rights lawyer and a devoted peace activist, who was renowned and respected for her compassionate representation of the poor and downtrodden; and

WHEREAS, in addition to giving public face to the emerging feminist movement in the '70s, Bella Abzug was also a vocal opponent of the Vietnam War, and a bitter foe of political conservatism; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Abzug was married to Martin Abzug, who preceded her in death and was the proud parent of Isobel and Eve Gail; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this legislative body should pause in its deliberations to remember the life of this great American and exemplary public servant; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of Congresswoman Bella Abzug, remembering with admiration her exemplary character, her sterling advocacy for civil rights and the underdog and her many selfless contributions to American government and public life.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Bella Abzug.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.